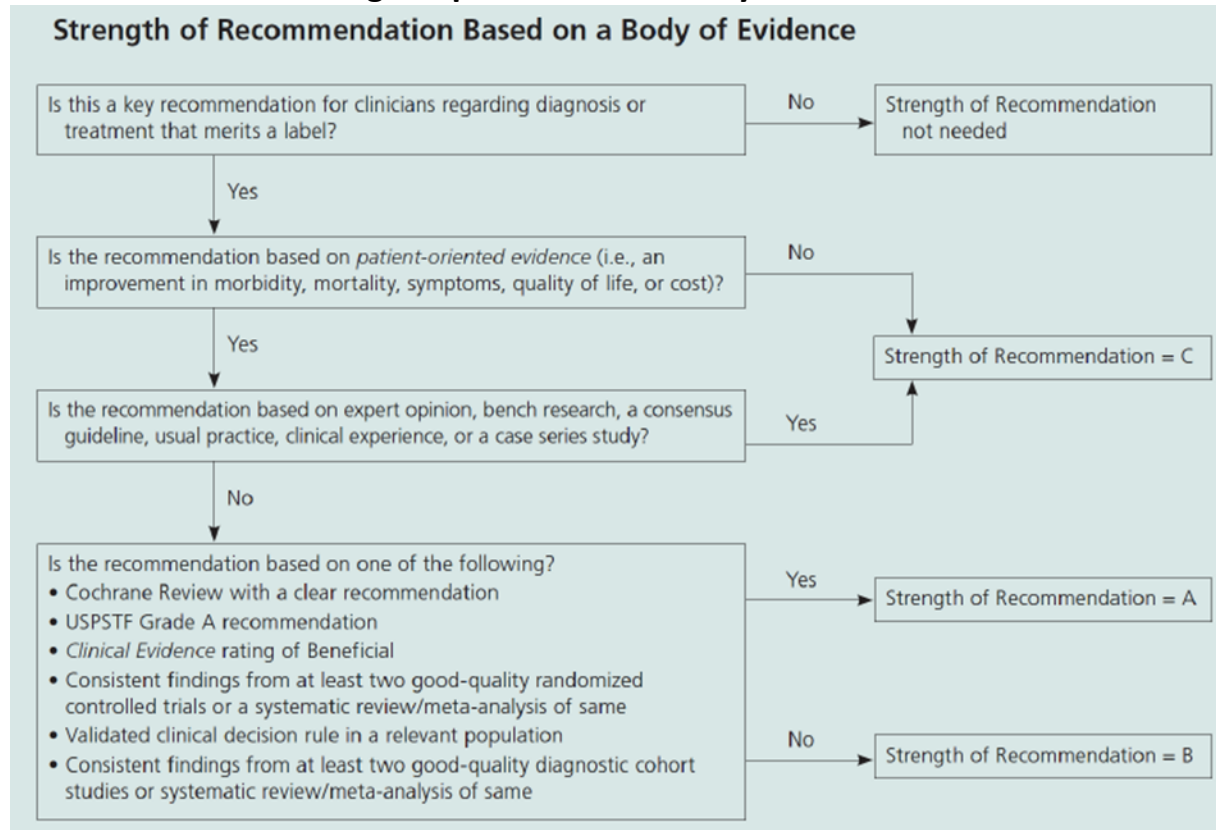


Bijlage 1 – SORT Grading

Sterkte van aanbevelingen op basis van SORT systematiek



Strength-of-Recommendation Taxonomy (SORT)

Code	Definition
A	Consistent, good-quality patient-oriented evidence *
B	Inconsistent or limited-quality patient-oriented evidence *
C	Consensus, disease-oriented evidence *, usual practice, expert opinion, or case series for studies of diagnosis, treatment, prevention, or screening

* *Patient-oriented evidence measures outcomes that matter to patients: morbidity, mortality, symptom improvement, cost reduction, and quality of life. Disease-oriented evidence measures immediate, physiologic, or surrogate end points that may or may not reflect improvements in patient outcomes (e.g. blood pressure, blood chemistry, physiologic function, pathologic findings).*

Consistency Across Studies

Consistent	Most studies found similar or at least coherent conclusions (coherence means that differences are explainable). <i>or</i> If high-quality and up-to-date systematic reviews or meta-analyses exist, they support the recommendation.
Inconsistent	Considerable variation among study findings and lack of coherence <i>or</i> If high-quality and up-to-date systematic reviews or meta-analyses exist, they do not find consistent evidence in favor of the recommendation.

Assessing Quality of Evidence

Study quality	Diagnosis	Treatment/prevention/screening	Prognosis
Level 1: good-quality, patient-oriented evidence	Validated clinical decision rule SR/meta-analysis of high-quality studies High-quality diagnostic cohort study*	SR/meta-analysis or RCTs with consistent findings High-quality individual RCT† All-or-none study‡	SR/meta-analysis of good-quality cohort studies Prospective cohort study with good follow-up
Level 2: limited-quality	Unvalidated clinical decision rule SR/meta-analysis of lower quality studies or studies with inconsistent findings Lower quality diagnostic cohort study or diagnostic case-control study	SR/meta-analysis of lower quality clinical trials or of studies with inconsistent findings Lower quality clinical trial Cohort study Case-control study	SR/meta-analysis of lower quality cohort studies or with inconsistent results Retrospective cohort study or prospective cohort study with poor follow-up Case-control study Case series
Level 3: other evidence	Consensus guidelines, extrapolations from bench research, usual practice, opinion, disease-oriented evidence (intermediate or physiologic outcomes only), or case series for studies of diagnosis, treatment, prevention, or screening		

*High-quality diagnostic cohort study: cohort design, adequate size, adequate spectrum of patients, blinding, and a consistent, well-defined reference standard.

†High-quality RCT: allocation concealed, blinding if possible, intention-to-treat analysis, adequate statistical power, adequate follow-up (greater than 80 percent).

‡In an all-or-none study, the treatment causes a dramatic change in outcomes, such as antibiotics for meningitis or surgery for appendicitis, which precludes study in a controlled trial.

(SR = systematic review; RCT = randomized controlled trial)